

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 108995
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EUR/P: WZIMMERMAN
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AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 108995

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 108995

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, PFOR

SUBJECT:US INTERESTS AND POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE EC

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3175

1. THE FOLLOWING US POLICY OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AS GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR US/EC RELATIONS. THEY DRAW ON THE MISSION'S 1977 ANNUAL POLICY ASSESSMENT (REFTEL) AND HAVE INTERAGENCY CONCURRENCE. MORE DETAILED POLICY GUIDANCE WILL BE PROVIDED UPON COMPLETION OF NSC POLICY REVIEW MEMORANDUM (PRM) STUDY NOW UNDERWAY. POST RESOURCES (PART III, REFTEL) WILL BE ADDRESSED SEPARATELY.

2. US INTERESTS/OBJECTIVES

A. BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

-- ASSURE THAT THE EC MAINTAINS AN OPEN MARKET AND HOSPITABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR US EXPORTS AND DIRECT INVESTMENTS;

-- ENSURE THAT US DOMESTIC INTERESTS AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN THIRD MARKETS ARE ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARDED; AND

--WORK CLOSELY WITH THE COMMUNITY TO PRAGMATICALLY RESOLVE OUR BILATERAL PROBLEMS SO AS TO AVOID AN ESCALATION OF RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, PRIMARILY IN THE TRADE FIELD, WILL CONTINUE TO POSE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WITH THE EC. LARGELY DUE TO INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS, THE US AND THE EC HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DEFUSED SEVERAL TRADE PROBLEMS THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 108995

COULD HAVE CAUSED SERIOUS PROBLEMS, ADVERSELY AFFECTING OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP. BUT THERE ARE CONTINUING PROBLEMS, BOTH IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL FIELDS AND IN THE SUBSIDY/COUNTERVAILING DUTY AREA. THESE WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL HANDLING, CONTINUED CLOSE CONSULTATIONS, AND--SHOULD THERE BE A NUMBER OF CONCURRENT DISPUTES--A CLEAR ORDERING OF PRIORITIES.

B. MULTILATERAL ISSUES

--WORK CLOSELY WITH THE EC IN ITS ROLE AS VEHICLE FOR DEVELOPING OR COORDINATING THE VIEWS OF ITS MEMBER STATES OVER THE FULL RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES; AND

--ASSURE THAT THE US AND THE EC MAINTAIN A COOPERATIVE AND WHENEVER POSSIBLE A COORDINATED APPROACH TO SOLVING PROBLEMS IN EXISTING OR PROSPECTIVE MULTILATERAL FORM DEALING WITH TRADE, FINANCE, DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY, COMMODITY AND OTHER GLOBAL ISSUES.

WHILE WE MUST CONTINUE TO CONSULT WITH THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, WE WILL DEAL WITH THE EC AS SUCH IN ANY AREA TO WHICH COMMUNITY COMPETENCE MAY EXTEND. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, WE SHOULD ALSO SEEK TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF OUR MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES WHENEVER THERE IS AN ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL EC ROLE. ON ISSUES WHERE EC COMPETENCE IS CLEAR, THE FIRST AND PRIMARY FOCUS OF OUR CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE WITH THE COMMISSION.

C. POLITICAL COOPERATION WITH THE EC NINE

-- EXPAND AND DEEPEN OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMUNITY ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, SO THAT THE EC NINE WILL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF US VIEWS WHEN THEY CONSULT TOGETHER FOR THE PURPOSE OF REACHING COMMON POSITIONS ON CURRENT INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 108995

THE MOST INTERESTING CURRENT ASPECT OF EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, IS THE EFFORT TOWARD POLITICAL

COOPERATION. ALTHOUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC PRESIDENCY CANNOT REPLACE BILATERAL EXCHANGES WITH THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, AS EC POLITICAL COOPERATION INCREASES OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE EC NINE AS SUCH WILL BE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF US GOALS IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE. WE DO NOT NEED TO CREATE SOME NEW OR MORE FORMAL CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM. RATHER, WE NEED TO IMPROVE THE SCOPE AND QUALITY OF THE EXISTING CHANNEL.

D. EC ROLE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND APC COUNTRIES/ENLARGEMENT

-- ENCOURAGE EC EFFORTS TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL STABILITY, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE WESTERN EUROPEAN/MEDITERRANEAN REGION AND AMONG THE ASSOCIATED LOME CONVENTION COUNTRIES.

WE SHOULD BE ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE A EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ROLE WHICH COULD SERVE OUR COMMON INTERESTS. ON ENLARGEMENT INTO THE NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN, WE UNDERSTAND THE EC'S POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO, AS WELL AS PRACTICAL CONCERNS REGARDING, EXPANSION TO INCLUDE GREECE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. WHILE WE WELCOME CLOSER EC TIES WITH ALL THREE COUNTRIES--BELIEVING, AS DOES THE COMMUNITY, THAT ENLARGEMENT SHOULD PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND REGIONAL POLITICAL STABILITY IN THE AREA--WE CONSIDER THE TIMING AND CONDITIONS OF ACCESSION TO BE MATTERS FOR THE PARTIES TO DECIDE. WE WILL, OF COURSE

NEED TO BE ATTENTIVE TO EC DECISIONS TAKEN DURING THE ENLARGEMENT PROCESS WHICH MIGHT THREATEN US ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

E. EUROPEAN UNIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 108995

--SUPPORT THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION, RECOGNIZING THAT A STRONG AND PROSPEROUS EC IS IMPORTANT, AND IN SOME AREAS CRUCIAL, TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ALL MAJOR US INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND MANY INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL GOALS.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS CLEARLY SIGNALLED ITS READINESS TO DEAL WITH EUROPE AS A COMMUNITY IF THE EUROPEANS WISH IT. THE COMMUNITY HAS WELCOMED THIS APPROACH. WHILE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD EUROPEAN UNITY IS ITSELF AS IMPORTANT AS ANY SPECIFIC POLICY, WE NEED TO GO BEYOND GENERALIZED EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT. A REVIEW OF THE US APPROACH TO EUROPEAN UNITY IS NOW UNDERWAY IN THE PRM CONTEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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